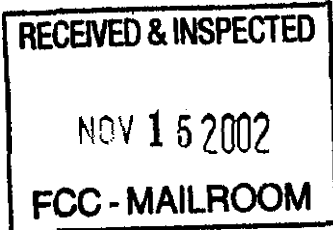




Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

ORIGINAL



November 6, 2002

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: ~~Ex~~ Parte Notice

MB Docket Nos. 02-277, 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

In the matter of **2002** Biennial regulatory Review—

Review of the FCC Broadcast Ownership Rules and other rules adopted pursuant to Section **202** of the Telecommunications Act of **1996** including cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, rules and policies concerning multiple ownership of radio and television broadcast stations in local markets, dual network ownership restrictions and other media ownership regulations.

The attached correspondence, which was sent to Chairman Michael Powell and copied to the other FCC Commissioners, was filed by the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO on behalf of the **14** signatory organizations. The letter requested that the Commission hold field hearings as part of its rulemaking process regarding the media ownership rules that are currently under review by the agency.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Almeida
President

Enclosure

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List ABCDE

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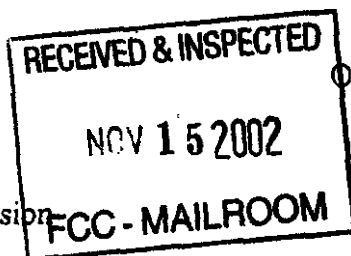
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Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO



October 22, 2002

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Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The purpose of this correspondence is to address a serious procedural concern that the undersigned organizations share with respect to the consolidated rule-making that is now before the Federal Communications Commission regarding six media ownership regulations and the separate rulemaking regarding cable ownership.

In today's already highly concentrated media marketplace, our organizations have continued to be advocates for robust competition and ownership diversity. In the news and information business, these precepts help preserve localism in news coverage, enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of news content, and assure a multiplicity of voices from a variety of independent sources. Most importantly, they expand the public's informed participation in our democracy. In entertainment, competition and diversity are the economic imperatives that stimulate the kinds of creativity and variety in programming that the American public has come to expect but which has been drastically reduced due to the abolition of the financial interest-syndication rules that resulted in a severe contraction in the number of independent program production owners.

In short, irrespective of the number of available media outlets, ownership matters as does the FCC's regulatory regimen that protects and advances these important public interest objectives. We happen to believe that the repeal of the rules now under review by the FCC or their substantial diminution will have a profound impact upon this nation's news, entertainment, information, and communications industries.

Given the potential impact that revisions of these rules will likely have on these industries as well as media markets of all sizes throughout the country, we believe it is incumbent upon the Commission to assure that its regulatory review process is open, fair and comprehensive. It should not be limited only to those organizations—principally the media industry—who have and will spend unlimited resources to influence the outcome of your deliberations. We urge the FCC to go the extra mile to assure the broadest public participation in what will likely be viewed as one of the Commission's most far-reaching regulatory actions in its history.

To this end we respectfully urge you in your capacity as FCC Chairman to call for field hearings on these matters. State and local constituencies from outside the beltway—who would not otherwise be heard on these important public policy issues—deserve the opportunity to present their views. Facilitating the opportunity to do so will go a long way to assuring the public that at least the process

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itself was inclusive and even-handed while providing commissioners with additional information and insights on which to base their final decisions.

The undersigned 14 national organizations collectively represent nearly one quarter million media professionals and artists who are involved in all phases of news and entertainment programming. We hope that, on their behalf, you will give our recommendation serious consideration.

Sincerely,

~~Actors' Equity Association~~

~~Patrick Quinn, President~~

American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

John Connolly, President

American Federation of Musicians

Thomas F. Lee, President

Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

Paul E. Almeida, President

Directors Guild of America

Martha Coolidge, President

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Broadcast Division)

Edwin D. Hill, President

International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees

Thomas C. Short, President

National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, CWA

John S. ~~Clark~~, President

National Writers Union (UAW 1981)

Jonathan Tasini, President

The Newspaper Guild, CWA

Linda R. Foley, President

Screen Actors Guild

Melissa Gilbert, President

The Caucus for Television Producers, Writers and Directors

Charles W. Fries, Chair

Writers Guild of America, East

Herb Sargent, President

Writers Guild of America, west

Victoria Rifkin, President

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin